



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building  
One Saint Andrew's Plaza  
New York, New York 10007

September 29, 2021

**VIA ECF**

The Honorable Paul G. Gardephe  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
White Plains, NY 10601

Re: *United States v. \$141,680.00 in United States Currency*,  
20 Civ. 2915 (PGG)

Dear Judge Gardephe:

On April 14, 2021, the Government filed a Motion to Strike the claim filed by Lance Steglich in the above-captioned civil forfeiture matter. (Dkt. No. 8). Thereafter, on April 19, 2021, the Court entered an Order directing that any opposition to the Government's Motion to Strike be filed by April 26, 2021. (Dkt. No. 11). To date, no opposition to the Government's motion has been filed and the deadline has expired. Accordingly, the Government respectfully requests that the Court enter the Order to Strike the claim of Lance Steglich.

Since no other claims or answers have been filed in this matter and the time in which to do so has expired, the Government intends to move for a Judgment of Forfeiture in this matter.

**Memo Endorsement:** In light of Claimant Lance Steglich's failure to file a timely answer as required by Rule G(5)(b) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, the Government's motion to strike (Dkt. No. 8) is granted. See, e.g., *United States v. 479 Tamarind Dr., Hallendale, Florida*, 98 Civ. 2279 (DLC), 2011 WL 1045095, at \*3 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 11, 2011) ("When a claimant fails to file an answer, he or she does not have statutory standing to bring a claim."). The Government will move for a judgment of forfeiture by January 27, 2022. The Clerk of Court is directed to terminate the pending motion at Dkt. No. 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

AUDREY STRAUSS  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

By: /s/  
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SO ORDERED.

Paul G. Gardephe  
United States District Judge

Dated: January 18, 2022